

Application No. 10/719,152
Filed: November 21, 2003
TC Art Unit: 2851
Confirmation No.: 2116

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Appleman (US Pat. No. 5,839,704) in view of Robalino (US Pat. No. 5,585,849).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of dependent claims 4 and 5. Amended claim 1 recites that in the area of the first handle, a locking sleeve is provided for locking in position an extendable extension body guided within the basic body, and the end of the first handle facing away from the basic body includes connecting means for receiving an external feature comprising a belt clip or a support post.

Neither Appleman nor Robalino shows such connecting means. Appleman discloses in Fig. 5 bottom mount means (threaded mount 80) at the bottom end 14 of vertical rod 10 for attaching a camera mount 5 to a separate tri-pod, mini-pod, other camera mount or a similar device. In contrast, the connection means according to the invention is provided at the end of the first handle, not at the bottom end of the vertical rod. Owing to the belt clip means, the stand of the invention can be carried for a very long time period, since the weights of the stand and of the device to be supported and carried will be optimally distributed. See Applicant's specification, page 3, last paragraph. Accordingly, claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are believed to be patentable over Appleman in view of Robalino.

Claims 1-10 have been provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 over claims 1-10 of Application No. 09/859,970. Application No. 09/859,970 has now become abandoned. Thus, this rejection is believed to be moot.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and indication thereof are respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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